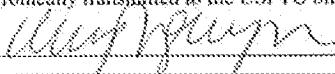


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: September 28, 2006

Signature:



(Quyen Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/612,170  
Confirmation No.: 5203  
Filing Date: July 1, 2003  
Inventor(s): Vahid C. SAADAT et al.  
Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR GASTRIC REDUCTION  
Examiner: M. Mendoza  
Group Art Unit: 3734

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated March 29, 2006 for which a response was due on June 29, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to September 29, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.